

U.S.S.N. 09/591,739

Filed: June 12, 2000

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Remarks

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 36, 39-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being enabled. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.

The examiner's rejection is well taken. The claims have been amended to clarify that the polyhydroxyalkanoate is derivatized using standard chemical or physical modifications, as described in the application at page 17, line 6, to page 18, line 8. See also page 7, lines 20-27.

Claim 40 has been amended to more clearly refer to the use of the listed enzymes in the degradation of the biomass, as described in the application at page 18, lines 9-17.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 36-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection to the extent that it is applied to the claims as amended.

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Claim 36 has been amended to specifically recite that the polyhydroxyalkanoate is derivatized by a particular chemical reaction or group. The claims to the enzymes have been amended to recite that they degrade the biomass. This is believed to remove any ambiguities.

Allowance of claims 36-44, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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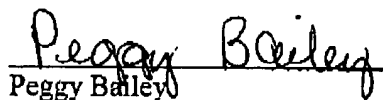
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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, and any documents referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted on this date October 3, 2003, to the Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Peggy Bailey

Date: October 3, 2003